

In the same way, Mr. Speaker, we are hopeful that the election of President Sarkozy will renew the ties of friendship that bind our two countries and our long heritage together.

On the eve of the election, President Sarkozy said that "American friends can rely on France's friendship. France will always be next to them when they need us." We are hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that in the midst of many international crises, most notably, the threat of nuclear Iran and the global war on terrorism, that France will remain an ally committed to world peace and democracy for all and continue to pursue freedom for all peoples throughout the world.

I am pleased to be the sponsor of legislation H. Res. 379, which honors President Sarkozy and his appearance before Congress. I look forward to his continued friendship and an alliance between not only him and the United States, but the people of France and the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on the week of November 18 we begin to celebrate in this Nation National Bible Week.

National Bible Week is the National Bible Association's signature event which is celebrated the week before Thanksgiving every year since it began in 1941.

In this week, we encourage the citizens of this Nation to read the Bible. Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I was not always an ardent Bible reader. I was always in and around the church, but as so many of us who belong to church, I was in the church, but church wasn't in me.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this Congress in 1993 and almost immediately upon my presence here I received a Bible similar to this given by Rev. Dr. D. James Kennedy. And, Mr. Speaker, I found my evenings alone, my wife and my family back in Chicago, and somehow I had a prompting to pick up the Bible and to read the Bible. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that although I wasn't an ardent reader, now I'm a ferocious reader of the Bible, avaricious in my interests in terms of the words recorded in God's living book.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that I have been renewed as a man by the renewing of my mind according to the dictates and the Spirit that's incorporated in the reading of the Bible. I am a changed man; I am a new man. I don't have the same friends I used to have. I don't walk the same way; I don't talk the same way, and it's all because of this Bible.

Mr. Speaker, I am an activist, and for years I had shunned this Bible because it didn't speak to my activism. And then the Holy Spirit spoke to me

through my conversations and through my interests in reading the Bible. And, Mr. Speaker, I came across a Scripture that really moved me, two, as a matter of fact. One is taken from the Old Testament, Micah 6:6-8: "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of ram, 10,000 rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

The Lord answers, "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Mr. Speaker, in those words, it encapsulated all that I had attempted to be, my activism, my love for humanity and my love for the Lord. Mr. Speaker, Luke 4 and 4:18: "The spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Because He has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Mr. Speaker, my life had been, and continues today, to be a reflection of the spirit that is within me, the Holy Spirit that is within me. I call on all good citizens, Christians and non-Christians alike, during this week and every week of the year, pick up your Bible. Read the Bible. You have no better friend. You have no better solution than what is recorded in these words.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ROSS AND MARIANNA BEACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the testimony and words as spoken by the gentleman from Illinois. I rise tonight to speak to congratulate Ross and Marianna Beach and the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the occasion of the museum's grand reopening. Located in Manhattan, on the campus of Kansas State University, the Beach Museum of Art has become a cherished cultural center in the Flint Hills of my home State. Over the years, the museum has nearly tripled the number of their works of art and has enhanced the lives of thousands of patrons.

Originally opening on October 16, 1996, the museum offers a wide array of

services to the area. While continually adding to the collection of regionally inspired art, the museum contributors have also made educational programs, lectures, tours, and workshops available. The new 15,000 square-foot addition of the Mary and Morgan Jarvis Wing is evidence of the museum's continuing success and benefit.

Believing in art appreciation and education, the Beach Museum is poised to contribute to the culture in Kansas for generations to come. The impact the museum has on Kansas is immeasurable. Located on the campus of a nationally ranked university and in close proximity to Fort Riley, the Beach Museum serves a highly diverse population. Students, along with military personnel and their families, come from all over the globe to live, work, and learn. This oftentimes short-term community is always pleased to discover an art museum of such fine quality.

Through the efforts of Kansas State University president Dr. Jon Wefald and his wife, Ruth Ann, the museum has gained national notoriety. Mrs. Wefald's leadership on the museum advisory board has proven to be a major factor in the museum's rapid growth and expansion.

The university, the City of Manhattan and the State of Kansas have benefited tremendously from the Wefalds' dedication. Gratitude is owed for their committed devotion to the museum. Museum director Lorne Render should be commended for guiding the museum into the 21st century. Through Lorne's service to the arts, the Beach Museum continues to offer exhibits and programs that enhance the quality of life of all Kansans and, in fact, many Americans. As the museum continues to contribute to the appreciation of the arts, appreciation should be extended to Lorne for the museum and the museum's knowledgeable staff.

The museum would not have been possible but for the generous philanthropic ideals exhibited by the lead donors, Ross and Marianna Beach. The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art was named by Mr. Beach for his wife in commemoration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Beach are longtime donors of talent and treasure to the State of Kansas. Their commitments to the arts extend beyond the Beach Museum in Manhattan. They were instrumental in establishing the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the campus of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. This center has been providing a venue for plays, speeches, debates, and concerts for more than 20 years. The Beachs' commitment to the arts extends across the State and is appreciated by Kansans from all walks of life.

My wife and I are proud to serve on the museum's board of visitors. We have witnessed, firsthand, the results Ross and Marianna Beach have attained. It is certain that the Beach legacy will be experienced by thousands of people for generations to come.